



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Governmental & Legislative
Affairs Director

July 24, 2015

The Honorable Paul Gosar
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

H.R. 2663 (Gosar) – Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act – SUPPORT

Dear Representative Gosar:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support H.R. 2663, the Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2015, and we thank you for your efforts to ensure that local jurisdictions receive appropriate compensation when they are the site of utility-scale renewable energy projects on public land.

Given San Bernardino County is the largest county in the contiguous United States at more than 20,000 square miles, and we already have more than \$5 billion in solar energy projects operating and under construction, additional funding from their lease fees would enable us to improve public services to address the impacts from these large projects, especially in remote, underserved desert areas.

In addition, the County has lost property tax revenue from, and the public has lost access to, vast areas of public lands through federal acquisitions of formerly taxable private land, wilderness designations and other restrictions. We support the Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund, inasmuch as it may allow for habitat mitigation to occur on public lands, rather than through acquisition of private land, and it calls for improved access to public lands for recreation and other activities.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support H.R. 2663. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Ramos".

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lovingood".

ROBERT LOVINGOOD
Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman
First District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

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